

MEMO TO FILE

RE: White Substance in Fassnight Creek

On Tuesday, April 5, 1988, Gene Pabst and I received a complaint from Blaine Garton(224 E. Bennett) that there was a white discharge in Fassnight Creek. Gene and I went to Mr. Garton's house and talked to him. He said that he first noticed it around noon. The water was greyish and there was some foam and scum on top of it. We followed the creek back through the park and over to the little retention basin on Weller. There was thick white sediment and red clay on the concrete bottom of the drainage ditch at Weller. There were also a few pockets of foam beside the concrete bottom in the ditch. We decided to go check at the new Red Cross building and at Kraft Foods to see if they were discharging anything. We drove down the 1300 block of south Delaware and saw one of Lefty's Pump Service well drilling rigs(Russ Sprenger was the name on the metallic sign on the side of the truck) in the front yard at 1314 S. Delaware. The house belongs to J. O. Cooper. There was no runoff from the drilling, but we saw dried white sediment sand clay at the curb leading down to the storm box. We stopped talked to one of the men operating the drill and asked him about the discharge. They had a pit dug in the front yard where they were pumping the wet limestone dust. He said they hadn't lost anything today. He had started drilling today at 1:30 p.m. They had also put in some casing yesterday. he assured us the discharge was "biogradable." We asked him why they were drilling a well in the yard and he told us it was to supply water to the lawn sprinkler system at the house. He also said the houses on either side of that one had wells. We went to the DNR office and talked to Gale Roberts about the problem. He said he would refer it to Ed Sears.

On Wednesday, April 6, 1988, I went back to look at the creek again. I saw some foam on the water in the storm ditch at Weller. I went by 1314 S. Delaware and the well drilling rig was still in the front yard. It looked as if water had run down the curb on Delaware street to the storm box sometime during the day. I went to the new Red Cross building on Glenstone and Meadowmere and looked around but didn't see anything unusual. I also went to look at the storm drainage ditch on Meadowmere east of Glenstone that takes storm water from Kraft Foods, but it was clear. I went back over to 1314 S. Delaware to talk to the well drillers to see if they had discharged any water to the street, but they were gone.

On April 7, 1988, Gene Pabst and I checked Fassnight Creek in the morning in several spots and it was clear.

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